

Justice to establish a joint commission on violent crime on Indian lands and against Indians.

Within 18 months of enactment, the commission was required to develop and make publicly available recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior, the Attorney General, and Congress on actions the Federal Government can take to combat violent crime against Indians and on Indian lands, including recommendations for identifying, reporting, and responding to instances of missing persons, murder, and human trafficking.

The Department of the Interior has reported that the commission was not fully established until April 2022 and has requested additional time to do its work.

While I believe the findings and recommendations of the commission are warranted, I am disappointed in the process for this legislation.

S. 5087 has no House companion bill, and Democrats failed to conduct regular order for this legislation before bringing it to the floor of the House.

The authorization for the commission expired in October, yet this majority failed to prioritize extension of this authorization to address this important issue.

Instead, we are here just days before the end of the 117th Congress, rushing this and other issues off the floor of the House and to the President for his signature.

While I support the goals of this legislation, this is not how we should be conducting our business in the House.

Madam Speaker, I support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. PELTOLA. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Alaska (Mrs. PELTOLA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 5087.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE RESOURCE CENTER ACT OF 2022

Mrs. PELTOLA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 989) to establish a Native American language resource center in furtherance of the policy set forth in the Native American Languages Act.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 989

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Native American Language Resource Center Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE RESOURCE CENTERS.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to further align the resources provided by the Department of Education with the policies set forth in the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.) through establishment of a program within the Department of Education to support 1 or more Native American language resource centers.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education is authorized to make a grant to, or enter into a contract with, an eligible entity for the purpose of—

(1) establishing, strengthening, and operating a Native American language resource center; and

(2) staffing the center with individuals with relevant expertise and experience, including staff who speak American Indian and Alaska Native languages and the Native Hawaiian language and have worked in language education in the American Indian and Alaska Native languages and the Native Hawaiian language in a preschool, elementary school, secondary school, adult education, or higher education program.

(c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—The Native American language resource center established under subsection (b) shall carry out activities to—

(1) improve the capacity to teach and learn Native American languages;

(2) further Native American language use and acquisition;

(3) preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice, and develop Native American languages in furtherance of—

(A) the policies set forth in the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.); and

(B) the United States trust responsibility to Native American communities;

(4) address the effects of past discrimination and ongoing inequities experienced by Native American language speakers;

(5) support the revitalization and reclamation of Native American languages; and

(6) support the use of Native American languages as a medium of instruction for a wide variety of age levels, academic content areas, and types of schools, including Native American language medium education.

(d) ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—The Native American language resource center established under subsection (b) may also carry out activities—

(1) to encourage and support the use of Native American languages within educational systems in the same manner as other world languages, including by encouraging State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and institutions of higher education to offer Native American language courses the same full academic credit as courses in other world languages;

(2) to support the development, adoption, and use of educational outcome metrics aligned with the Native American language of instruction, including assessments, qualifications, and processes based on promising practices in Native American language medium education;

(3) to provide assistance to Native American language programs seeking Federal resources;

(4) to encourage and support teacher preparation programs that prepare teachers to teach Native American languages and to use Native American languages as a medium of instruction, including by disseminating promising practices and developing pedagogical programming and through appro-

priate alternative pathways to teacher certification;

(5) to provide information and resources—

(A) on promising practices in the use and revitalization of Native American languages in Native American communities, including use in educational institutions; and

(B) for the use of technology in school and community-based Native American language programs to support the retention, use, and teaching of Native American languages;

(6) to support the use of distance learning technologies and training for parents, students, teachers, and learning support staff associated with Native American language programs, including—

(A) the compilation and curation of digital libraries and other online resources for Native American languages, except that any materials collected by the center shall only be materials provided by a Native American language program or Native American community;

(B) the development of optional distance learning curricula appropriate for preschool, elementary school, secondary school, adult education, and postsecondary education;

(C) pedagogical training for Native American language teachers; and

(D) other efforts necessary to continue Native American language acquisition through distance learning;

(7) to provide technical assistance for Native American communities and school systems to develop Native American language medium education programs in preschool, elementary school, secondary school, or adult education programs conducted through the medium of Native American languages;

(8) to support Native American language programs and Native American communities in—

(A) accessing international best practices, resources, and research in indigenous language revitalization; and

(B) gathering and sharing technical assistance, promising practices, and experiences;

(9) for the operation of intensive programs, including summer institutes, to train Native American language speakers, to provide professional development, and to improve Native American language instruction through preservice and in-service language training for teachers; and

(10) that otherwise support the Native American language resource center established under subsection (b) to carry out the activities required in subsection (c).

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ESEA DEFINITIONS.—The terms “elementary school”, “local educational agency”, “secondary school”, and “State educational agency” have the meanings given the terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means—

(A) an institution of higher education;

(B) an entity within an institution of higher education with dedicated expertise in Native American language and culture education; or

(C) a consortium that includes 1 or more institutions of higher education or 1 or more entities described in subparagraph (B).

(3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(4) NATIVE AMERICAN; NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE.—The terms “Native American” and “Native American language” have the meanings given those terms in section 103 of the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2902).

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$3,000,000 for each fiscal year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Alaska (Mrs. PELTOLA) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alaska.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. PELTOLA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 989, the Native American Language Resource Center Act of 2022.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

Mrs. PELTOLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 989, the Native American Languages Resource Center Act of 2022.

By 1990, some 150 remaining Native American languages were dying out after decades of policies that worked to eliminate Native American languages. While Congress has previously acted to reverse those efforts, Native American languages are still at risk.

To that end, I applaud Senator BRIAN SCHATZ for championing the Native American Language Resource Center Act.

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Specifically, this bill will create a center that will provide support for Native American language programs in schools serving students of all ages and at all levels of learning from pre-K to Ph.D.; serve as a resource to Federal, Tribal, State, local governments, and other organizations to spread best practices for the development of Native American language teaching and learning; and support teacher preparation programs that prepare teachers to teach Native American languages.

Madam Speaker, research shows that the best way to reverse Native American language extinction is to invest in Native American language education. The Native American Language Resource Center Act of 2022 will accomplish that goal.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 989, the Native American Language Resource Center Act of 2022.

This legislation will support Native American language centers toward fulfilling the mission of the Native American Language Act, a bipartisan bill passed in 1990, with the intent of revitalizing Native American languages.

This legislation has been helping Native American Tribes preserve their

cultural heritage for 32 years. S. 989 will help advance this mission. Specifically, S. 989 ensures taxpayer funds are targeted toward the intended purpose preserving Native languages.

Promoting and preserving Native American languages is a challenging mission, but a worthy one. Sadly, some languages have already been lost.

In 2008, Chief Marie Smith Jones passed away. She was the last speaker of the Eyak language of an Alaskan indigenous Tribe. When she died, so would have the Eyak language if she had not worked to create a dictionary and recordings of the language.

According to the National Geographic, one language dies every 14 days. S. 989 will help prevent that from happening. Simply put, this legislation works to provide Native American language centers with the resources they need to keep our country's cultures, traditions, and heritage alive.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of S. 989, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. PELTOLA. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, S. 989 will assist Native American resource centers in further aligning the resources they are provided by the Department of Education with the goals of the Native American Language Act.

By supporting the development, preservation, and promotion of Native American languages, this legislation ensures that the rich, cultural heritage and traditions of Native Americans are not lost to future generations.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues who have spoken in support of S. 989, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. PELTOLA. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Now more than ever, Congress needs to take action to reaffirm our commitments to indigenous populations and make good on our promise to preserve Native American languages.

The Native American Language Resource Center Act of 2022 is a critical step to achieving that goal. By creating a hub for resources and learning, Congress will signal their commitment to protecting Native American languages.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Alaska (Mrs. PELTOLA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 989.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further pro-

ceedings on this motion will be postponed.

DURBIN FEELING NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES ACT OF 2021

Mrs. PELTOLA. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill, (S. 1402) to amend the Native American Languages Act to ensure the survival and continuing vitality of Native American languages, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1402

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Durbin Feeling Native American Languages Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. ENSURING THE SURVIVAL AND CONTINUING VITALITY OF NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 106 of the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2905) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) EVALUATION; REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the President shall—

“(1) require the heads of the various Federal departments, agencies, and instrumentalities to carry out an evaluation described in subsection (a)(1); and

“(2) submit to Congress a report that describes—

“(A) the results of the evaluations; and

“(B) the recommendations of the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of Education, after consultation with Indian tribes, traditional leaders, and representatives of Native American language communities, for amendments to Federal laws that are needed—

“(i) to bring the Federal laws into compliance with this Act;

“(ii) to improve interagency coordination for purposes of supporting revitalization, maintenance, and use of Native American languages; and

“(iii) to reduce duplication, inefficiencies, and barriers Native American language communities face in accessing Federal programs to support efforts to revitalize, maintain, or increase the use of Native American languages.”.

(b) SURVEY ON NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES.—The Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 108. SURVEY ON NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section, and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’), shall undertake a survey of the use of all Native American languages in the United States.

“(b) UPDATES.—Prior to conducting each subsequent survey after the initial survey under subsection (a), the Secretary shall update the survey in accordance with this section.

“(c) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall design the initial survey under subsection (a) and each updated survey under subsection (b)—

“(1) in consultation with Indian tribes; and

“(2) after considering feedback received from Native American language speakers and experts.